



## Oklahoma’s teachers confront the Capitol

By Otis Grotewohl and Molly Matewan

April 2 — Tens of thousands of Oklahoma educators, state workers, parents, students and community members converged today on Oklahoma City, the state capital, to demand adequate funding and resources for public education. Two minutes later, the Oklahoma City school system sent out a robocall that its schools would be closed until teachers return to their classrooms.

Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest said to ralliers at the Capitol that educators will remain on strike until they win the full funding they’ve been asking for. Picketers circled the building chanting, “Education is a right, that’s why we have to fight.” Spirits were lifted by music from school bands there to support striking teachers, the majority of whom are women.

Hope Davis, a Deaf student and one of the first speakers at the rally, called legislation passed March 28 “a bandaid” when her state needs stitches. The legislation had granted teachers an average \$6,000 raise for one year only, and inched up taxes on the oil industry and cigarettes.

Davis said her math class has 40 students, and since her teacher quit, she’s had to take supplemental online courses. Oklahoma teacher salaries are so low,

many educators have moved to neighboring states to make a living, leaving Oklahoma schools understaffed with severe turnover problems.

Due to this crisis, pro-union sentiment is on the rise for many community members. A teacher/folk singer known as Mr. Booker told WW that until now “union” had been a bad word in Oklahoma.

Inspired by the nine-day education workers’ strike in West Virginia — represented at today’s rally by West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee — teachers, paraprofessionals and school staff in Oklahoma have been readying picket lines since early March.

Heading into Monday, the first day of walkouts, education workers called for a \$10,000 wage increase over a three-year period. Oklahoma teachers last saw a raise in 2008, an increase so paltry they remain some of the lowest paid educators in the U.S. Oklahoma has also experienced significant austerity measures over the last ten years, including a 30 percent cut to the state’s education budget.

**An education ‘bandaid’ proposal**

At first the revenue package passed on March 28 looked like a victory. Republican Governor Mary Fallin signed off on the first tax increase in Oklahoma in 28

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## Police murder of Stephon Clark ignites militant protests

By Monica Moorehead

The heinous murder of 22-year-old African-American Stephon Clark by the Sacramento, Calif., police on the night of March 18 continues to make national headlines, thanks to the heroic vigilance of the Black Lives Matter movement, national allies and social media.

Police shot at Clark 20 times in his grandmother’s backyard. The police said they “feared” for their lives, claiming Clark had a gun in his hand. But they did not find a gun — they found him clutching a cell phone. Nevertheless, the cops handcuffed Clark as he lay bleeding to death.

Results of a March 30 independent autopsy, requested by Clark’s family, confirmed eight of the 20 bullets hit him in the neck, back and thigh, causing widespread breakage of bones and massive bleeding, especially in his lungs. Based on these findings, Bennet Omalu, a forensic pathologist, stated, “His death wasn’t instantaneous. Death took about three to ten minutes.” (Washington Post, March 30) Omalu stated that the police were facing Clark’s back when they starting shooting at him in the dark.

An “official” coroner’s autopsy has not taken place as of April 2. Clark is survived by his partner, Salena Manni, their

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# Howard University Protests erupt amidst corruption scandal



Washington, D.C., Workers World bureau

April 2 — Students and organizers at Howard University are engaged in a fifth day of protests and sit-ins in administrative buildings after the university fired six employees for the misappropriation of nearly \$1 million in financial aid funds. Students have called for the removal of President Wayne A.I. Frederick, as many view him as an embodiment of the administration’s lack of care. They are also calling for the removal of his board of trustees.

Participating as HU Resist, the students assert that the sit-ins are not entirely about money or funds. They are also about a gross misuse of power and irresponsibility on the part of the administrative staff. Earlier this year, multiple complaints were made over inadequate student services and the administration’s poor handling of sexual assault cases.

Housing accommodations are also on the list of reforms students are demanding. Earlier this year some students were told that, although they had submitted deposits, Howard was unable to guarantee them housing. As rents throughout the Washington, D.C., area have increased dramatically with gentrification, they found it difficult to live off-campus. Some feared that the lack of housing would jeopardize continuing their academic careers.

However, success has come from the sit-ins. The administration recently granted an extension of the housing application deadline to May 1. Reforms, nonetheless, are still desperately needed.

Student organizers have also demanded the disarming of campus police officers and the establishment of a police oversight committee that is controlled by students and other community members. As the topic of gun control generates increased public discussion, this demand is significant. Students do not want the militarization of campus and off-campus police.

The students are also demanding a halt to the imposition of rapid tuition hikes. The sit-ins expose how the current administration is monetizing its students. Profit is priori-



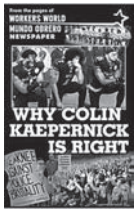
Students protest at Howard University.

tized over students’ well-being and overall education.

The struggle at Howard raises the question: If financial embezzlement occurred at Howard, could it be happening at other college campuses in the United States? Postsecondary institutions have too often abandoned the goals of education and human development. Under capitalism, universities are motivated by profit, even at the expense of their students, who are viewed as mere consumers.

Throughout the protests, HU Resist has tweeted to shed light on the current scandal and to ask for help, including food for the protesters and general support. Multiple students reported that tutoring and counseling services are also being provided at the sit-in — a reminder that these students are at the forefront of a conscious movement. (Twitter: @HUResist)

Students should not have to worry about rampant corruption in their school administration. In spite of everything, HU Resist has taken a strong stance. Protesters may miss classes, but they gain solidarity in return. □



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Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero Newspaper

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Vol. 60, No. 14 • April 5, 2018  
Closing date: April 3, 2018

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly  
except the first week of January by WW Publishers,  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone:  
212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institu-  
tions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and  
edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to  
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10011. Back issues and individual articles are available  
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# ‘End police terror’ rings out in midtown Manhattan

By Taryn Fivek  
New York

More than 1,500 people took the streets of New York City on March 28 to demand an immediate end to police terror and abolition of the New York Police Department. Protesters lifted up the name of Stephon Clark, a 22-year-old father of two who had been shot eight times by police in Sacramento, Calif., on March 18. He was killed in the backyard of his grandmother’s house, unarmed and with his back to the cops. His death is one more in a long line of Black lives murderously taken by police.

The march was organized by Workers World Party, the People’s Power Assembly and NYC Shut It Down. Four days earlier, organizers had raised the banner

of Black Lives Matter at the NYC #March-ForOurLives and distributed 3,000 flyers about the March 28 protest to the many teenagers and adults marching against gun violence.

The U.S. is the world’s number one arms dealer. Large U.S. cities are more and more aptly described as occupation zones as cops equipped with body armor and assault rifles regularly attack Black, Brown and migrant youth. As capitalism grinds down to its dead end, the ruling class must deny the working class and oppressed any opportunity at revolutionary action and organizing — hence, the heavy investment in the police.

During the March 28 event, the NYPD brutally tried to crack down with scooters, bicycles, cars and even a helicopter, making 13 arrests. Many teenagers

who had heard about the action from the anti-gun march expressed outrage. They brought homemade signs to the kickoff rally, held at Columbus Circle, co-chaired by members of WWP, PPA and NYCSID. The rally featured speakers from Why Accountability and Swipe It Forward and was followed by the march, which filled the streets as it headed to Times Square.

So many people were outraged at another senseless and racist police murder that the NYPD did not have enough scooters and bicycles to contain the march. Despite brutal arrests, the people moved fast and held the streets for most of the march. Local, national and international media were present and



WW PHOTO: TARYN FIVEK  
‘Black lives matter’ takes to NYC’s streets.

moved with the march to Times Square, where youth held numerous clustered speak-outs before dispersing to do jail support.

This incredible show of force from the movement and the youth, mainly Black and Brown, showed that the Black Lives Matter movement is not abating but is clearly reproducing itself. Some who had been only eight years old when Trayvon Martin was murdered were militantly marching for him, as well as for Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Stephon Clark and all Black lives taken by racist police. □

# Police murder of Stephon Clark ignites militant protests



PHOTO: INDYBAY

I-5 shut down in Sacramento demands justice for Stephon Clark.

Continued from page 1

two young sons, Cairo and Aiden, as well as his grandmother, Sequita Thompson.

There is video footage from a police helicopter and police body cameras of Clark’s shooting. But seven minutes after the shooting, the police muted their body cams, suggesting a cover-up. The two police officers who killed Clark have been put on “administrative leave” pending a police “investigation.”

According to the Washington Post, six people have been killed by police in Sacramento since January 2015 — five of the six were Black men, including Clark. (March 30)

### #Justice4StephonClark

Stevante Clark, Stephon’s brother, stated, “I know there could have been another way; he didn’t have to die. You’re going to know his name forever. You’re going to remember it like ... Mike Brown,

Eric Garner, Tamir Rice.” (Washington Post, March 21)

Following Clark’s murder, Black Lives Matter activists organized hundreds to shut down a section of Interstate 5 on March 23. Then protesters proceeded to the Golden 1 Center, where the home team, the National Basketball Association’s Sacramento Kings, was scheduled to play the Atlanta Hawks.

The protesters shut down the arena, keeping out the majority of fans there to see the game. The principal owner of the Kings, who is South Asian, joined by all the Kings players, the majority of whom are Black, made a public statement in sympathy with the Clark family.

Two days later, on March 25, before the Kings were scheduled to play the Boston Celtics, both teams wore “#Stephon-Clark” on their warm-up shirts. A former Kings player and an NBA All-Star, DeMarcus Cousins, now with the New Orleans Pelicans, offered to pay for Clark’s funeral.

Stevante Clark disrupted a March 28 community forum at a Sacramento City Council meeting, repeatedly shouting out his brother’s name in front of the mayor. Protesters outside the meeting then marched again to the Golden 1 Center where the Kings were playing the Dallas Mavericks. They blocked the entrance and once again caused a small turnout by

the fans. As protests continued on March 31, a police car hit the knee of a 61-year-old woman and then left the scene rapidly, in what was described by those at the scene as “hit-and-run.” (Washington Post, April 1)

Matt Barnes, another former player with the Sacramento Kings, an NBA champion who is now retired, helped to organize a “March for Action!” rally at Cesar Chavez Plaza in Sacramento on March 31, which hundreds attended. Barnes has demanded that the district attorney and state attorney general prosecute the cops who killed Clark.

Barnes told “theundefeated.com,” a sports publication, “Twenty shots is a slaughter. People don’t even get shot 20 times in the video game ‘Call of Duty.’ Twenty shots [at] a 22-year-old boy is ridiculous. You have to have some accountability. They are not going to be able to sweep this under the rug now. The press secretary said this was an isolated situation in Sacramento. That couldn’t be further from the truth. This is a nationwide situation that needs to be addressed.” (March 30)

### An ongoing national crisis

Barnes is on target with these words. For instance, on March 31, Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry announced that the two white Baton Rouge police officers involved in the July 2016 fatal shooting of Alton Sterling, a 37-year-old Black man, will not be charged with his murder. The police officer who shot Sterling in the back was fired while the other officer, who pinned Sterling to the ground, was suspended for three days. Both are scheduled to have “disciplinary hearings.”

More than a million people, many of them youth, converged March 24 in the streets across this country to demand

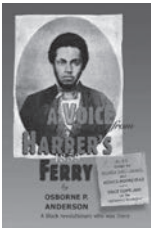
“gun control.” Their action was sparked by the Feb. 14 massacre of 17 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. During these marches, a number of Black youth and other youth of color made it clear, with their voices and signs, that they are against any police occupation of the schools as a solution to gun violence. The youth were clear that they would be the ones scrutinized and demonized by the cops.

During the marches, there were many signs demanding the disarming of the police. This is a righteous concern when police have no trouble apprehending alive white supremacist mass shooters like Dylann Roof, who admitted to the massacre of nine Black church-goers in Charleston, S.C., in 2015, and Nikolas Cruz, accused of slaughtering the Parkland students. But police continue to shoot to death Black victims like Clark and Sterling, who are then demonized by both the police and the mainstream media as criminals or as having criminal-like behavior.

The police are a repressive force trained under capitalism into a white supremacist mentality, so that cops treat people of color, especially the youth, as being expendable and less than human.

But this racist police war is creating a political answer, especially through the Black Lives Matter struggle, no matter what form that resistance may take. Sacramento Black Lives Matter has issued a joint call with the Anti Police-Terror Project in Oakland, Calif., for a “National Day of Action! Stephon Clark WILL Get Justice!” on April 4. (tinyurl.com/yd972tv8)

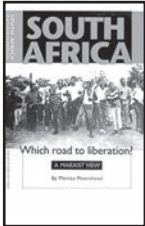
Communities everywhere are called to organize local protests on April 4, marking the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in protest of Stephon Clark’s death. □



### A Voice From Harpers Ferry


Osborne P. Anderson’s account of the raid on Harper’s Ferry appeared in pamphlet form in 1861 right after the start of the Civil War. Includes essays by Mumia Abu-Jamal, Monica Moorehead and ‘The Unfinished Revolution’ by Vince Copeland.

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## DETROIT

# Conference advances fight against austerity

By Kris Balderas Hamel  
Detroit

The National Conference to Defeat Austerity was held in Detroit on Saturday, March 24. Led by a coalition of organizations and individuals initiated by the Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs, the event was a resounding success.

Over 200 people — from Detroit, other Michigan cities and eight other states — participated throughout the day in examining, from an anti-capitalist perspective, the attacks on poor and working people. Topics included education and housing, water shutoffs, mass incarceration, the lowering of wages and the role of the banks, Pentagon and government at all levels in perpetuating austerity.

Austerity is the direct rule by finance capital over cities and even countries, where the banks impose drastic cutbacks in services, wage cuts, destruction of pensions and privatization to ensure payment to the banks of debt service on fraudulent and usurious loans.

Since the early 2000s, the city of Detroit has been at the epicenter of austerity imposed by the banks and finance capital against the U.S. working class. Some 139,699 of Detroit's 384,672 homes were foreclosed because of mortgage defaults or unpaid taxes from 2005 to the present.

The financial crisis brought on by the banks' destruction of Detroit's neighborhoods led to the imposition of "emergency management," which took the city into bankruptcy. City retirees had their pensions slashed by 43 percent to pay off crooked financial instruments, such as interest rate swaps, imposed on the city by the same banks behind the foreclosure epidemic. One hundred thousand families had their water shut off to satisfy the bondholders.

In the past year, however, under the weight of the attacks, activists in Detroit began observing a disturbing trend. Organizations ostensibly set up to fight for homeowners' and other people's rights suddenly began getting funding from the Bank of America and from Dan Gilbert — the owner of Quicken Loans and a chief forecloser and gentrifier.

Wealthy citizens, officials and the media were now heralding the very financial institutions that destroyed the city as architects of Detroit's "rebirth."

It was to reemphasize and expose the role of the banks and finance capital in the destruction of Detroit, and to reinvigorate the struggle to hold these institutions accountable, that the Moratorium Now! Coalition, the leading Detroit organization challenging the banks' role in the looting of Detroit, decided to undertake organizing a National Conference to Defeat Austerity.

### Ending racism, poverty and militarism

The opening plenary was chaired by Gabrielle Dior, a young African-American homeless and outreach organizer from Detroit, who played a major role in organizing the conference. The panel included city of Detroit retiree Yvonne Jones, of the Detroit Association of Active and Retired Employees, who gave an overview of the history of austerity in Detroit and the racist character of the attack by finance capital on this African-American city.

Erica Anna, an Xicana organizer from Chicago, gave an overview of the Trump tax giveaway to the rich and the Pentagon build-up as well as the effect they will have



WW PHOTOS: KRIS HAMEL AND JOE PIETTE  
Ricardo Santos Ramos  
Yvonne Jones, above, Carlos Topp, top right. Dior Gabrielle, right.  
Abayomi Azikiwe, Jamie Smedley and Yexenia Vanegas

on low-income individuals. Anna emphasized the complicity of Republicans and Democrats in the war on the poor.

Dante Strobino, from the Southern Worker's Assembly, discussed the tremendous West Virginia teachers strike and battles against austerity throughout the South.

The Rev. Edward Pinkney, Michigan political prisoner and longtime fighter against austerity, described conditions in Benton Harbor, Mich., and described the potential for uniting working and oppressed peoples in their common struggles.

Abayomi Azikiwe, a leading organizer of the Moratorium Now! Coalition, summed up the tasks of the conference in the opening plenary's keynote address, stating:

"We are here today for three fundamental reasons. It is necessary for this gathering to clearly define the character of the multiple crises we face as oppressed, impoverished and working people. Our problem is economic at its base, yet the solutions are political and social. The first step in any struggle is to know who your enemies are. Our oppression and exploitation are rooted in a system of injustice. In order for us to achieve liberation we must challenge and overcome the structural barriers to our genuine progress.

"Moreover, we have come together to network among ourselves. To discuss both our strengths and weaknesses within the context of building a sustainable movement aimed at taking on the forces which are exercising hegemony over our very lives. At present no one organization has the capacity to advance the struggle without the cooperation of others. So therefore, we are here to find avenues of unity and coalition building toward our much-coveted objectives of creating a society devoid of the evils Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. cited more than 50 years ago: racism, poverty and militarism.

"Finally, we look forward to the outcome of our deliberations today. The workshops should be encouraged to hammer out action items which are both specific as well as broad enough in scope so that they can be adopted by the entire conference."

### Seven super workshops

The conference then broke into seven workshops. Maurice B.P. Drew, co-founder of the Refund America Project, led a well-attended workshop on "What are interest rate swaps and the other financial

instruments used by banks to rob cities and countries worldwide?" The Refund America Project is the leading organization working with community groups, from Moratorium Now! to the Committee for an Audit of the Debt in Puerto Rico, in helping to decipher these financial instruments in order to fight them in daily struggles.

Yexenia Vanegas, Detroit organizer of the Poor People's Campaign, led a workshop on this critical effort to challenge the war on the poor across the U.S. Vanessa Fluker, Detroit people's anti-foreclosure attorney, led a workshop on the housing crisis, foreclosures, evictions and gentrification.

Elena Herrada, an elected member of the Detroit School Board in exile, and Helen Moore, longtime public education activist, led a workshop on the education crisis and the defunding and privatization of public education. The workshop on water shutoffs was facilitated by Alice Jennings, lead attorney in Lyda vs. City of Detroit, which challenged Detroit's mass water shutoffs during the city's bankruptcy. Nicole Hill and Roslyn Walker, water shutoff victims and Lyda plaintiffs, also contributed.

A workshop on food justice, fighting low wages and the inaccessibility of healthy food to the oppressed, was led by Jonathan Roberts, director of ROC (Restaurant Opportunities Center United) Michigan, which is spearheading the One Fair Wage petition campaign in Michigan. A workshop on colonization and racialized capitalism was facilitated by Antonio Rafael, leader of RaizUp and SwGrows Agroecology.

After a lunch provided by ROC Michigan, Abayomi Azikiwe opened the first afternoon plenary on the international dimensions of the struggle against austerity. The featured speaker was Ricardo Santos Ramos, former president of the Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers of Puerto Rico (UTIER). Maria Del R. Ortiz Montes, his spouse and a leading activist in her own right, translated.

Santos Ramos reported on the role of Promesa, the U.S. law that establishes an oversight board for restructuring Puerto Rico's debt; the impact of the imposition of massive debt service on the continued devastation of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria; and moves being made to privatize public institutions throughout the island.

Jesus Rodriguez Espinosa, former counsel general in Chicago for the Bolivarian government of Venezuela, delivered a video statement to the anti-austerity conference from Caracas. He said that despite

the hardship caused by U.S. economic sanctions against his country, he was confident of the victory of President Nicolás Maduro in the upcoming elections.

Julia Kassem, a Detroit organizer of U.S. Palestine Community Network, reported on her recent trip to Lebanon. She described the lack of water and electrical infrastructure she observed there due to robbery by the European Union and Saudi elites who dominate the economy.

Frank Hammer, representing ASOTRECOL Solidarity Network and a former president of United Auto Workers Local 909 in Warren, Mich., discussed the plight of union workers in Colombia. Some 3,000 unionists have been assassinated there since 1980, and hundreds of injured General Motors workers have been fired in Bogotá.

Cosmo, a participant in the 2017 Venceremos Brigade, described Cuba as an example of how health care and education can be guaranteed to the entire population.

Solidarity messages to the conference were delivered from Fronte Popolare, Italy; Red Network, Spain; and on behalf of Jose Sison, from the Philippines, leader of the International League of People's Struggle.

### Town hall meeting on many struggles

Next was a town hall meeting, chaired by community activist Carlos Topp, where representatives of struggles in Detroit and around the U.S. reported to the event. Among the speakers were Joanne Watson, former militant Detroit City councilperson; Kristy Cooper, on behalf of the Library Defense Network; David Sanchez, Southwest Detroit organizer for immigrant rights; Andrew Mayton and Trevor Wakefield, of the Baltimore Bus and Transit Riders Union; Maureen Taylor, chair of Michigan Welfare Rights Organization; and Jess Jude from Durham, N.C., on the victory over white supremacy with the dismissal of charges against nine freedom fighters who took down a Confederate statue in that city.

Other speakers included John Bohn and Mary Kaessinger on behalf of the People's MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) in New York City; Kimberly Simmons, the second juvenile lifer released from Michigan prisons after serving 29 years; Martha Grevatt, from Pride at Work on the LGBTQ struggle and the fight against austerity; and Joanna Strayham, who described the housing crisis in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the 1,000 immigrants recently arrested there as part of "Operation Rio Grande."

The town hall also heard from Miranda Edith from the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly on the struggle against the creation of a private police force by Johns Hopkins University; Dior Gabrielle, representing Jeff Toms from the Machinists union, on the fight against two-tier wages in the airline industry; Ted Kelly, from Philadelphia who announced the Days of Solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal and played two audiotapes from Mumia; and Jamie Smedley, from Detroit Workers World Party, who exposed the robbery of tax dollars by Mike Ilitch and Dan Gilbert, the two main Detroit gentrifiers.

### Fightback proposals adopted

The final session was chaired by Yexenia Vanegas, a leading organizer of the Michigan Poor Peoples Campaign. Vanegas played a major role in building the conference. This section dealt with action proposals, which included a March 29

*Continued on the next page*



# Following Dr. King's murder Lessons of the April 1968 Black rebellions

*Below are excerpts from an April 11, 1968, WW article by Workers World Party founding chairperson Sam Marcy, a week after the assassination in Memphis, Tenn., of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr*

**By Sam Marcy**

... The rebellions which opened spontaneously upon the heels of the announcement of the assassination of Rev. King were so widespread that they had an almost universal character throughout the length and breadth of this land. The magnitude and depth of the uprisings were so great that President Johnson had to cancel his Vietnam conference in Honolulu to attend to the crisis here — a sure sign that, for the moment at least, the war of liberation at home took precedence over the war of liberation waged by the Vietnamese people abroad.

It is sufficient merely to remember that the storm of uprising engulfed 110 cities as of April 9, as revealed by the New York Times.

Nowhere in recent contemporary history has there taken place such a simultaneous and completely spontaneous rising as we witnessed last week. Its very scope and magnitude send terror and confusion into the camp of the ruling class. The very fierceness and boldness of the mass rising were the only real factors that stopped the government from unloosing as extreme a

terror as it did last summer [when National Guard troops were used to put down urban uprisings in cities like Newark, N.J., and Detroit].

Nevertheless, in the space of barely three days, the government made 16,255 arrests, left 3,550 injured and 38 dead, all as of April 8.

It must be remembered that many smaller cities did not report at all at press time. Many of them generally refuse to release the true number of arrests or injured except on official requests from higher authorities.

No matter how the bourgeois press will distort the real character of the events following the assassination, there are two fundamental aspects of these events which cannot be obscured by mere propaganda.

The first one is that the uprisings were not of an accidental character, or solely a protest at the murder of Rev. King, but were a general expression of the revolutionary momentum inherent in the liberation struggle. The King assassination crystallized and accelerated the tempo of the rebellions.

The second aspect of the rebellion is the implicit rejection of the theory of



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during a Civil Rights march in Memphis on March 28, 1968.

nonviolence as a method of achieving liberation. The ruling class could scarcely fail to notice this.

To the extent that more token concessions are made to the Black masses, they are to be regarded as a by-product of the struggle carried on by the masses, and not at all as concessions handed down from above to assuage the grief of the masses.

(It is plain for all to see that the passage of the current token civil rights bill in the reactionary House of Representatives by such a decisive majority is clearly a concession to the rebellions of the past week.)

Throughout the entire period until the burial of King, the ruling class so manipulated all of the important public events that aside from the rebellions themselves, there was no truly visible and significant

independent expression of the Black masses.

Radio and television, press and pulpit, as well as outside gatherings, all of which were controlled by white bourgeois elements, monitored almost all public expressions of political sentiment. Few indeed were the independent, militant Black voices given the opportunity to be heard — except for short intervals and on rare occasions.

The very sight of Nixon, Rockefeller, Kennedy, Romney, Humphrey and the other pillars of imperialist racism at the funeral could not help but add insult to injury. The masses of the people were even deprived of having their own way of interpreting the events. No wonder the masses resorted to retaliatory force!

In the epoch of imperialist decay, force has been the only arbiter in great events. Not a single important contemporary world issue has been decided without it, and until imperialism is swept off the face of the earth, that is how it will invariably be. Peaceful methods for the solution of great problems as well as small will prevail and endure after the reactionary obstruction of monopoly capitalism and racist oppression are swept away by a proletarian revolution. □

## Immigrant women protest: 'We will not be caged!'

**By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
Syracuse, N.Y.**

"We will not be caged!" was the rallying cry against deportation of immigrant women and children in upstate New York on March 28. Caravans of protesters from Rochester, Syracuse and New York City converged on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement federal facility in Batavia, N.Y.

The March rally celebrated Women's History Month with this action for justice. Organizers were the Workers' Center of Central New York, the Worker Justice Center of New York and the New York Immigration Coalition "in solidarity with the women in our communities that are being further criminalized and attacked by [the Trump] administration."

Protesters were fighting in particular against the deportation of Arely Tomas

Orozco due for an in-person check-in with Batavia ICE that day. Orozco is a fierce advocate and community leader for workers. The mother of three children who are U.S. citizens, she lives with her family in Syracuse, while also helping take care of family in Guatemala.

Orozco was turned in to the U.S. Border Patrol by N.Y. State Police in 2013 when she and her partner, Hector Navarro, lacked a license while driving. The WCCNY has a Green Light NY/Driving Together! campaign underway to expand access to drivers' licenses regardless of immigration status. ([tinyurl.com/ybmvsjeq](http://tinyurl.com/ybmvsjeq))

Navarro, who was detained in Batavia from December 2017 to February 2018, witnessed how that detention center, which houses the majority of immigration detainees in upstate New York, expanded to include women, with the number of female inmates rising since the fall.



PHOTO: WORKERS' CENTER OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Arely Tomas Orozco (center) speaks after return from ICE check-in, following successful mobilization of community supporters.

A statement by organizers said: "Immigrant women in upstate New York for years have faced incredible isolation and discrimination, [including] discrimination at the workplace. Border Patrol's close relationship with local law enforcement and the lack of a driver's license ...

forces them to break the law to be able to meet their basic needs. Despite this criminalization and constant risk, they continue to be a vital part of our communities by playing a crucial role in the state's dairy industry, and being at the forefront of the fight for drivers' licenses for all." □

*Continued from page 4*

demonstration against tax foreclosures called by the Moratorium Now! Coalition; a national day of actions against U.S. wars on April 14, reported by Syrian-American youth activist Joe Mshahwar; and making May Day an anti-austerity day as well as a day of solidarity with immigrant rights, reported by Mike Shane.

Other action proposals adopted included support for the Poor Peoples Campaign with its 40 days of civil disobedience starting May 13; and solidarity with actions calling on the Philadelphia Symphony to stop its planned trip to Zionist apartheid Israel in violation of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign, announced by Joe Piette.

A conference summation was given by Jerry Goldberg, an organizer for the Moratorium Now! Coalition and Detroit WWP. Goldberg emphasized the

importance of taking the lessons of the conference forward by formulating programmatic demands that bring the anti-capitalist message to the day-to-day struggles of the workers and oppressed. He received a rousing response when he emphasized that the basic needs of the people ultimately will only be achieved by overthrowing the capitalist system and replacing it with socialism, where human needs and not profit will determine the course of humanity.

Following the conference conclusion, a delicious dinner prepared by Youth for Global Health was served. A dynamic cultural event followed, with spoken word and music chaired by Mond Sankara, a youth leader of WWP Detroit.

Throughout the day there was drumming by #1DRUM and reflections led by Gabrielle Knox of the Detroit Poetry Society. □

## Vets, gov't workers rally against privatizing VA

**By Jim McMahan  
Seattle**

On March 27, government workers and veterans decried the 49,000 vacant staffing positions at veterans hospitals across the country. Health care workers' posts have been cut as part of an effort to privatize the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to spokespeople at the rally.

American Federation of Government Employees Local 3197 led the Keep the Promise Rally — to deliver quality health care — partnering with Veterans for Peace, Greater Seattle Chapter 92. Other

organizations also participated at the lunch-hour action outside the VA hospital.

Dan Gilman of Veterans for Peace said privatization plans by the Trump Administration would result in a health care structure that lacked experience in treating veterans of many wars. He called for establishing large coalitions to fight Trump's plans.

Beverly Anderson, president of Local 3197, told the crowd that the local VA had lost 700 positions in the recent period due to cuts and management harassment. Activists chanted, "Hey, hey, ho ho, staffing shortages have got to go!" □



# Interview with Amazon worker ‘We feel extremely exploited’

*Bulletin: Two thousand Spanish workers struck an Amazon facility in Madrid on March 21 and 22 over inadequate wages and working conditions injurious to their health. According to the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT) and Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), two of Spain's major labor unions, the strike was a “complete success,” with 98 percent of workers observing the stoppage.*

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has an obscene individual net worth of over \$124 billion. Yet the company's half-million-plus workers worldwide are struggling to survive economically while being pushed to their physical limits to maximize productivity at Amazon's “fulfillment centers.” Comrade James Costello was hired at the Indianapolis warehouse in October, just before the high-pressure peak season that began on “Black Friday.” Amazon has five warehouses in Indiana, each employing around 2,000 workers. Amazon is now the 15th largest employer in the state. This is Part 2 of Costello's recent conversation about working for Amazon with WW labor reporter Martha Grevatt.

**Martha Grevatt:** What are you paid?  
**James Costello:** \$13 an hour on night shift, day shift \$12. After 90 days you normally get a small raise, but some people don't get it.  
**MG:** Are there any benefits on top of your pay?  
**JC:** There are benefits that you have to pay some of the cost of. I do not get those benefits because I can't afford to pay my half. A lot of workers do not have benefits. There are no fully covered benefits.  
**MG:** Do you have co-workers on public assistance such as food stamps?  
**JC:** Yes. Amazon is a company where the CEO is one of the richest people in the country and the world, but because the pay is so low many workers have no other

option but to get assistance elsewhere, working multiple jobs or through food stamps and other survival programs.  
**MG:** Is there a high turnover rate?  
**JC:** There is. Many workers are worked to a point of quitting or being fired for not making quota or other factors. A lot of workers come in who have been let go but they re-apply. People get fired before their raise, then get hired back at the lower rate.  
**MG:** Describe the workforce demographics. Is there discrimination?  
**JC:** At the facility I work at, it's mostly younger people of color and especially women of color. Many are working multiple jobs. Amazon is not a safe place for people facing special oppression. Racial discrimination takes place, it's not friendly to LGBTQ people, and it's not safe for nonbinary people.  
**MG:** Would you get fired if you tried to unionize?  
**JC:** More than likely, yeah. None of the U.S. locations are unionized. They're very strict about not unionizing, telling us in orientation that there is no need because everyone has the right to speak to their managers. It would be very hostile. Amazon workers have only won the right for a union internationally. Labor fights and strikes were a result of international union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.  
**MG:** Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

**JC:** There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize successfully under Amazon.  
**MG:** What would you and your co-workers want to see if you could unionize?  
**JC:** We would want a wage that reflects living expenses in our area, a living wage by which we'd be able to afford basic necessities and not have to rely on survival programs. We would demand that the invasive labor tracking policies and devices be removed. We would demand adequate breaks with better policy on when they start, so that when you reach the break area you can eat, take a rest and hydrate.  
**MG:** Walmart is notorious for its terrible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?  
**JC:** Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it's the same policy of pushing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union material through the orientation process, as well as enforce the highly exploitative nature of the work.  
**MG:** Could there be a way to build low-wage worker solidarity among workers at big chains like Amazon and Walmart?  
**JC:** Yes, a lot of people think Amazon — the increase in online shopping and the drop in retail stores — was the reason Walmart is laying off people. But that's

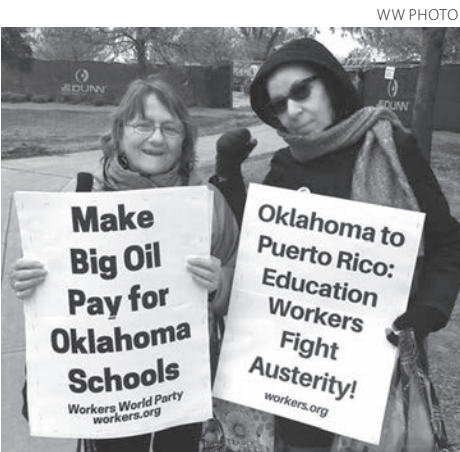
not really true. The truth is that Walmart seeks to increase the pay of high-ranking bosses, while keeping the wages of workers as low as possible. Plus Amazon is talking of laying off workers now that the peak season is over. We know that Amazon's profits are not decreasing, but it is still seeking to decrease the number of workers in order to exploit its workers at an even higher level and increase its profits even more.  
There's a basis for solidarity among workers in retail to organize together as one struggle. And I would include delivery workers. Many of them are unionized like at UPS and have won tremendous victories through union struggle. But a lot of their victories have been reversed, and there's a lot of pressure on their union, the Teamsters. There are ways in which Amazon workers and UPS workers could show solidarity with each other against the bosses who seek to exploit them as much as possible.  
**MG:** How can we support Amazon workers and help them receive better treatment?  
**JC:** There's a lot of push for a complete boycott of Amazon and Walmart. But what people can really do to support those workers is to demand from the companies that workers be treated fairly. People can bring the struggle of those workers to their own union and their own workplace. That would be the main way that solidarity could be built.  
**MG:** Would you say that you and your



# Oklahoma teachers strike: ‘Fund kids, not oil!’

*Continued from page 1*  
years to partially cover the \$6,000 raise for teachers, along with a smaller raise for school support staff.  
Teachers forced lawmakers to raise taxes by 5 percent on the oil industry in the revenue package, a victory almost unheard of in a “right-to-work” state, and one West Virginia teachers were unable to replicate. Big Oil has had a stranglehold on Oklahoma for generations.  
Educators won that battle, in part, because they were able to clearly identify to lawmakers that money to cover the increase in the education budget should come from oil companies whose taxes remain abysmally low. But the legislative bill left out an additional \$200 million for other education funding and \$255.9 million for teacher health insurance, funding which rank-and-file educators called a core demand.  
As in West Virginia, members of state affiliates of both the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers are involved in this fightback.  
On Sunday evening, OEA head Priest web-posted a speech: “So why are we walking April 2? Well, there are 700,000 reasons why. Our students and they deserve better! We've all heard stories from students, parents, and teachers affected by eleven years of cuts to our classrooms. They see broken chairs in class, outdated textbooks that are duct-taped together, and class sizes that have ballooned. Teachers are so drastically underpaid they are forced to donate plasma, work multiple jobs, and go to food pantries to provide

for their families.” (tinyurl.com/ybltvzlx)  
Rank-and-file militancy within the OEA set April 2 as the deadline for legislators to satisfy the educators' demands.  
Oklahoma City Federation of Teachers President Ed Allen at first advised teachers to accept the \$6,000 pay increase, describing this as a “down payment” on public education. But after further inspection of the bill's language, and encouragement from the rank and file, Allen and others are taking a more proactive approach.  
AFT President Randi Weingarten commented in an April 2 NPR interview: “[The legislature] took from one education pot to give to another education pot, as opposed to lifting up the dollars that were needed for kids in public education.” Weingarten said of teacher activism: “The era of passive resignation is over. In the wake of Janus, we will see more and more and more of this.” Janus v. AFSCME, the potentially union-busting case affecting public sector workers, was heard Feb. 26 by the U.S. Supreme Court, and will be decided in June.  
Oklahoma educators also judged the proposed pay increase as inadequate because raises for paraprofessionals and school staff were less than for teachers, setting workers against each other. Special education aides, for example, sometimes make less than \$10 an hour, and would have a smaller raise than teachers they share classrooms with.  
This legislative strategy could be an attempt by state governments to weaken solidarity among education workers and ultimately diminish the power of their



Teachers from around the country like Gloria Rubac and Sara Catalinotto came to Oklahoma in solidarity with the teachers' strike.  
unions. In West Virginia, education workers fought for and won the same raise for everyone regardless of position, whether teacher, cafeteria worker or bus driver.  
**Groundswell of labor struggle in ‘right-to-work’ states**  
Oklahoma educators have seen an outpouring of solidarity from union siblings locally and beyond. In a state with less than 6 percent of its workers unionized, Oklahoma City Teamsters joined teachers at the Capitol to amplify their demands.  
The Facebook page “I Support Oklahoma Teachers” reported unions of iron workers and operating engineers standing in solidarity as well. “It looks like construction sites across the state will be shutting down on Monday,” a post claimed on Saturday. Local press have largely covered the strike positively, and communities across the state have voiced

their support for educators taking a stand.  
Many educators in Republican-dominated right-to-work states view the education workers' strike in West Virginia as a wake-up call, and it's not difficult to see why. The material conditions in classrooms in Oklahoma and West Virginia are very similar, and share many characteristics with classrooms in Kentucky and Arizona.  
Oklahoma teachers' pay is ranked 49th in the U.S. according to the NEA, below West Virginia teachers at 48th and Arizona teachers at 43rd. All three states, and many more, have passed predatory right-to-work laws, rooted in Jim Crow racism, that abolish collective bargaining rights of workers, outlaw strikes and remove requirements that bosses must negotiate a contract.  
Kentucky teachers forced the closing of more than 20 schools on March 30, after legislators passed a surprise pension “reform” bill, effectively raiding teacher pensions. Educators and supporters continued their protest in Kentucky on April 2, closing schools in 21 counties, and lining the stairwells and balcony in the House and Senate chambers of the Capitol building in Frankfort. Kentucky educators have committed to continuing actions until the bill is reversed.  
About 2,500 Arizona teachers rallied in the capital of Phoenix on March 28, demanding a 20 percent raise and an education budget increase from a hostile legislature. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey stated categorically that he won't consider educators' demands. Because of this standoff, Arizona teachers could be the next to strike.





co-workers are a highly productive workforce? How does your compensation contrast with the amount of wealth you produce?

**JC:** The CEO of Amazon, Bezos, has surpassed Bill Gates in wealth to become one of the richest people in the world. The majority of Amazon workers make below a living-wage standard. That is unacceptable. That Bezos pushes to increase profits, when Amazon workers are not able to afford basic necessities, exposes the superexploitative nature of the bosses.

**MG:** How does a Marxist economic understanding explain how you are treated by Amazon?

**JC:** You look at the way corporations under capitalism developed. You see automation occurring. You see technology that could make the workload easier and the experience higher quality, but it doesn't lead to workers having an easier workday. Instead, the bosses use that tech against the workers while creating the highest profit margins for the corporations.

The bosses use technology to further exploitation and to lay off workers instead of making the work easier. □

On March 19, with broad community and student support, members of the Jersey City Education Association won a one-day strike for better pay, health care and dignity. On the same day, teachers in Puerto Rico struck in a fierce battle against U.S. colonialism and privatization. U.S. struggles are now part of an international movement of educators from England to Puerto Rico, Argentina to France.

In every state where right-to-work laws exist, bosses have forced a race to the bottom for workers in terms of wages and benefits. State politicians — reactionary Republicans and capitalist Democrats alike — have cut public services for decades through austerity measures.

With the elimination of collective bargaining through right-to-work laws, educators are fighting directly with state governments to obtain the education funding that they, their students and their communities deserve.

Teachers have harnessed the potential of social media to counter corporate media that promote the bourgeois concept that educators are “greedy and selfish.” Educators are spreading their rank-and-file-driven movements to other workers across the country.

Education workers are clearly stating that they want dignity and respect, accessible health care and decent pay, like all working people around the world. They are broadcasting to a global audience the need for a fuller understanding of the austerity cuts promoted by Big Oil, Big Banks and Big Business — cuts that demand, in turn, the solidarity of worker

*Update to this slightly edited article, originally published in Workers World on March 3, 2016: Not only is Dr. Hooker still alive today at 103, but she and other founders of the Tulsa Race Riot Commission finally won some historical reparations when on Feb. 20, Oklahoma state legislators announced the launch of an online public school curriculum related to the 1921 racist attacks. Information about the “Tulsa Race Riot” had not previously been taught in the state’s school system. (tulsa2021.org)*

# Dr. Olivia Hooker, teacher, survivor of 1921 Tulsa racist attack

By Dolores Cox

Dr. Olivia Hooker is a 101-year-old survivor of the horrific racist attack on the African-American community in Tulsa, Okla., known as the Tulsa race riot. To this day, she remembers the devastating, traumatic experience of rioters coming onto her family’s property on May 31, 1921.

Throughout U.S. history, there have been deliberate efforts to keep African Americans at the bottom of society. Black people have consistently been the targets of racial hatred and violence. The law of the land continues to be white supremacy and privilege. The U.S. is rife with racism, which is exported worldwide through imperialist propaganda and war. Due to centuries of social, economic and political disenfranchisement, the Black population has much catching up to do.

Just two generations after the abolition of slavery, descendants of enslaved people in the Greenwood section of Tulsa created a thriving, self-sufficient



In fact, the racists murdered three times as many, not counting those trapped in the fires.

actions and strikes.

## On the ground in Oklahoma

A solidarity delegation of Workers World Party members landed in Oklahoma City April 1 in time to participate in the rally at the Capitol. The delegation brought signs, banners, flyers, WW papers and their energy to support Oklahoma educators, students, parents and community members.

Delegation member Ben commented: “We hope to build greater solidarity between the struggle here and other workers and oppressed people in the U.S., across the globe, and especially the struggles by Indigenous peoples here in Oklahoma.”

“We’re excited to be here watching this unfold and seeing union activism and solidarity across all job titles. Workers are making a big leap in their state,” said Sara, a teacher and parent activist. “People want to read the WW issue with the Puerto Rico teachers’ strike as the cover story. Teachers here know they’re part of something bigger. There’s a working-class understanding that oil millionaires are making decisions that harm children, which shows in the speeches and signs like ‘Make Oil and Gas Pay.’ People know who they’re fighting against!”

The delegation will be in the state through April 4 and is posting about the walkout on social media using #OKWalk4Kids. For more information, please visit: [StandWithTeachers.org](http://StandWithTeachers.org).

*Workers World Party Strike Support members on the ground in Oklahoma provided rally details for this article.*

community that was a center for business and wealth. Greenwood was known as “Black Wall Street.” Residents built and cultivated homes, schools, churches, restaurants, banks, theaters, hospitals, hotels and stores. Its residents were among the best educated African Americans in the country.

## Racists razed Greenwood

However, African Americans’ attempts to rise up and move beyond oppression were defeated. Greenwood was prosperous, but its growth was short-lived. Those who dared to dream — and substitute commercial success for segregation — were shoved back down to the status quo. Racial hatred kept the entire community from reaching their goals in a country that deprived them of their basic rights and dignity.

Resentment by hostile whites, who were determined to maintain white dominance, exploded into mob violence. Acts of hatred lasted throughout the day and into the night in Greenwood. Rifle shots were fired from planes; fire bombs were dropped.

White rioters ransacked and looted homes and businesses before burning them down. They destroyed more than 1,000 homes, leaving 10,000 Black people homeless. The racists murdered an estimated 300 people and injured 800; others died trapped in the fires.

Even the police shot residents. Within 16 hours, the entire community of 35 city blocks was obliterated.

Martial law was declared. The National Guard did not arrest the racists, but rounded up and detained thousands of African Americans, some for several days. Men and boys were placed in internment camps. All the weapons they had for self-protection were confiscated and given to whites.

## Hooker family attacked

Dr. Hooker was born in Muskogee, Okla., in 1915. When she was three years old, the family moved to Tulsa. When the riot occurred, Dr. Hooker was six. Racists burned the doll clothes her grandmother made that were hanging on the clothesline. Inside the house, the assailants broke or stole the family’s possessions. They even destroyed the food on the stove. Then they took away her father and 8-year-old brother.

After the racist attack, Dr. Hooker’s mother and five children moved to Topeka, Kan. Her father stayed behind to try to rebuild his department store. A year later, the family moved back to Tulsa, attempting to pick up the pieces of their broken lives. After two years, the family moved to Columbus, Ohio, as Dr. Hooker’s father had been offered a job there. Both parents had been teachers.



**Dr. Hooker and other survivors filed a lawsuit against Tulsa and Oklahoma, demanding reparations for millions of dollars in damages. Their demands included health care for descendants living in Greenwood and scholarships for area students to attend Historically Black Colleges. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case. No victims nor their descendants received compensation.**

While living in Columbus during the Great Depression, Dr. Hooker earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Ohio State University in 1937. In 1945, she was the first African-American woman to join the U.S. Coast Guard. She had applied to the U.S. Navy’s Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service program, but was rejected because of her ethnicity. She disputed the rejection and was later accepted, but chose instead to join the Coast Guard to break the color barrier there, eventually earning the rank of petty officer second class.

Dr. Hooker received a master’s degree from Columbia University’s Teachers College in New York City in 1947. She received her doctorate in psychology from the University of Rochester in 1961 and then worked as an in-house psychologist at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. In 1963, she began working as a senior clinical lecturer in psychology at Fordham University and became an assistant professor there until 1985.

Dr. Hooker co-founded the American Psychological Association’s Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. At 87, she retired in 2002. At 95, she volunteered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Yonkers, N.Y.

## City, state, courts deny reparations

It wasn’t until 2001 that the city of Tulsa formally apologized for destroying Greenwood. Two years later, Dr. Hooker and other survivors founded the Tulsa Race Riot Commission and filed a lawsuit against Tulsa and Oklahoma, demanding reparations for millions of dollars in damages. Their demands included health care for descendants living in Greenwood and scholarships for area students to attend Historically Black Colleges. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case. No victims nor their descendants received compensation. Mentions of the riot were omitted from local and state histories, books and classrooms for decades.

Dr. Hooker has been a psychologist, humanitarian and women’s rights advocate, and asserts that everyone must strive toward preventing other catastrophic violence like the Tulsa attack. She has devoted much of her life to educating young people, so that subsequent generations will be more tolerant of racial diversity than previous generations. □

**Read MARXISM, REPARATIONS and the Black Freedom Struggle**  
Find it online at: [www.workers.org/books](http://www.workers.org/books) or at major online book sellers.



# WINNIE MADIKIZELA-MANDELA ¡PRESENTE!

By Monica Moorehead

Winifred “Winnie” Mandela, a heroic freedom fighter in the South African anti-apartheid struggle, died at the age of 81 on April 2 in a Johannesburg hospital after a long illness. She was a member of South Africa’s parliament until her death.

She was an inspiration to oppressed women worldwide who joined the mass anti-apartheid solidarity movement, including this writer, who was a founding member of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network. That organization demanded U.S. corporations divest from the economy of the racist apartheid regime in the mid-1980s.

A memorial service for this “Mother of the Nation” will be held in South Africa on April 11. The official national funeral is scheduled for April 14.

The African National Congress, the oldest national liberation movement in South Africa and currently part of the ruling government, issued an April 2 statement titled “ANC dips revolutionary banner to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.” This read in part:

“The ANC lowers its revolutionary banner in honour of the memory of this great woman who was so loved and revered, whose name will forever be inscribed in history as having played a formative role in the history of South Africa. We mourn the passing of this great patriot and Pan Africanist, whose resilience and courage inspired freedom struggles not only in South Africa, but across Africa and her diaspora.



“Such was her impact as an activist and revolutionary around the world that, until the very end of her life, she was lauded and acknowledged for her contribution to the struggles of all oppressed peoples of the world.

“Her early exposure to apartheid in the Village of Mbongweni, Bizana, in the Transkei, where she was born to Columbus and Nomathamsanqa Mzaidume Madikizela on 26 September 1936, inspired in her a lifelong hatred of injustice and racism. It was this early exposure, and later [her experiences] as a young social worker in Johannesburg, that set her on a lifelong path, joining the ranks of celebrated freedom fighters of the African National Congress and the broad liberation movement in the 1950s. She counted amongst

her friends and inspiration at the time the likes of Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Ma Albertina Sisulu, Florence Matomela, Frances Baard, Kate Molale, Ruth Mompati, Hilda Bernstein and Ruth First.

“Comrade Madikizela-Mandela was an activist in her own right, and will be remembered for having stood at the forefront of the struggle for women’s rights in South Africa — taking part in a number of demonstrations against the unjust pass laws. When the ANC was banned in South Africa — and the mere mention of the organisation’s name could result in imprisonment — Mama Winnie and countless other dedicated activists kept the flames of resistance burning, speaking out against apartheid, against detentions without trial, against the pass laws,



Winnie Mandela with her daughters and above in 2014.

and against the brutality of the apartheid regime. For this she paid a heavy price.

“She was first incarcerated in 1958 and over the years would face many more such detentions and banishment including solitary confinement. Despite all these attempts to break her spirit, she remained steadfast and refused to cease with her political activism, displaying exemplary courage that made her a role model for many young women activists in South Africa.

Imprisonment, banning, harassment, house arrest, solitary confinement and having her husband and father of her children, Isithwalandwe Tata Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years, did not break Mama Winnie’s fighting spirit.

“We are grateful to her for having bequeathed us a lasting legacy and inspiration to serve our people.”

To read the entire statement, go to [tinyurl.com/y7a7gvxs](http://tinyurl.com/y7a7gvxs).

□

## ‘The Young Karl Marx’

By Mike Kühlenbeck

Director Raoul Peck’s latest film, “The Young Karl Marx,” portrays Karl Marx, the philosopher, writer and revolutionary. This dramatic narrative sympathetically depicts the early life of the man inspired by the struggle of the workers and exploited masses against the crushing forces of the old monarchies as well as the capitalist class, which emerged first in England with the Industrial Revolution.

The fire in Marx’s pen came from a burning desire to change the world, to defeat a “system that naturally produces poverty” (to quote the film character’s speech to a gathering of craft workers in Paris) and build a new world.

Born in the German city of Trier on May 5, 1818, Karl Marx was the revolutionary thinker and activist who championed the cause of the working class, the proletariat, against the capitalist class — the bourgeoisie — that oppresses them. He co-authored “The Communist Manifesto” (1848) with fellow German revolutionary Friedrich Engels and wrote his colossal study “Capital” (unfinished by the time of his death on March 4, 1883), forever changing the world with his analysis and call to arms in the struggle between these classes. Since Marx’s death, the capitalists have tried to keep his message buried with him. “The Young Karl Marx” shows why their efforts to suppress Marx have failed.

The film follows Marx through the years 1843-48, a five-year period when a number of events helped shape him as a revolutionary and informed the nature of his writings. From Prussian police shutting down the office of the newspaper edited by Marx (Rheinische Zeitung) to his exile in Paris, from his meetings with fel-

low revolutionaries (most notably friend and future collaborator Engels), and his early studies of economics to the founding of The Communist League in London (formerly The League of the Just), the film shows audiences the formative years of Marx’s theory and actions in the struggle for international revolution at a time when revolutionary fervor was sweeping Europe.

Showing the personal and financial struggles of Marx, his relationship with family and friends, “The Young Karl Marx” paints the picture of an honorable human being who dedicated his life to the proletariat, advancing scientific socialism. In a moment of epiphany dramatized in the film, Marx draws the following conclusion on his role: “Until now, philosophers have simply interpreted the world. Yet it must be transformed.”

The cast of “The Young Karl Marx” features August Diehl (Karl Marx), Stefan Konarske (Friedrich Engels) and Vicky Krieps (Jenny Marx, Marx’s spouse and comrade), all of whom deliver powerful performances. Each actor convincingly demonstrates the outrage and hope of the characters they portray: the outrage against the injustices perpetrated against humanity in the interests of capital and the hope that humanity will unite to overthrow the system perpetuating the injustice.

For example, Jenny says to Engels, “Happiness requires rebellion. Rebellion against the establishment, the old world. That’s what I believe. And I hope to see the world crack soon.” There is fiery conviction in the delivery of this line (as with the rest of the dialogue), which can be read in her facial expression and tone of voice. To make such performances convincing, audiences are offered a glimpse



### FILM REVIEW

into the world witnessed by the characters, one of contrast between the rich and the impoverished.

Filmgoers get to see the brutal treatment of workers in textile mills, the squalid living conditions they are forced to endure and horrors such as child labor. While many toil in the hell of poverty (their labor produces wealth), a select few live idly in the lap of luxury (although they produce no wealth themselves). The film captures the environment which motivates the real-life Karl, Jenny and Friedrich.

The film concludes in 1848 with Marx and Engels writing and publishing “The Communist Manifesto,” which has since become the most influential document in world history, with its thundering proclamations and sobering insight. Passages from “The Manifesto” are narrated over images of workers who would gain from the goals put forward by Marx and Engels, including: “The history of hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggles. Society is splitting into two great hostile camps, into two great classes that confront each other — Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.”

As Marx says to craft workers early in the film: “Nothing lasts. All social relations — slavery, serfdom, salaried work — are historical and transient. The truth is, current conditions must change.”

“The Young Karl Marx” (“Le Jeune Karl Marx” in the original French) is a European co-production produced by Peck’s company, Velvet Film. Born in Haiti, Peck grew up in the Congo when it was ruled by Mobutu Sese Seku, studied at Humboldt University in the German Democratic Republic and film school in Berlin. Peck also co-scripted the screenplay with Pascal Bonitzer and has produced a lengthy filmography of works with political significance. This list includes the acclaimed documentary on African-American writer James Baldwin titled “I Am Not Your Negro” (2016) and the dramatic narrative “Lumumba” (2000), based on the life of Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba.

Peck described his inspiration for bringing this important period of Marx’s life to the screen in a press release from the film’s distributor, The Orchard: “A few years back, while the world was going through yet another financial crisis, I felt the need to go back to the basics: The analysis of the violent capitalist society we are still embedded in, through these three young Europeans of wealthy families (Karl, Friedrich and Jenny) who decided to change this utterly unequal world. And they eventually did; though not the way they imagined it.”

To condense this intense period of Marx’s life in a roughly two-hour film is a daunting task, especially when trying to convey the simple yet complex ideas of Marx and his comrades. However, Peck and the crew behind this effort successfully achieve this goal. “The Young Karl Marx” is a stunning cinematic offering whose time has come. As class struggle continues to escalate across the globe, the message of Marx is as timely as ever: “Workers of the world, unite!” □



# After 152 years of U.S. aggression Hands off Korea!

By Deirdre Griswold

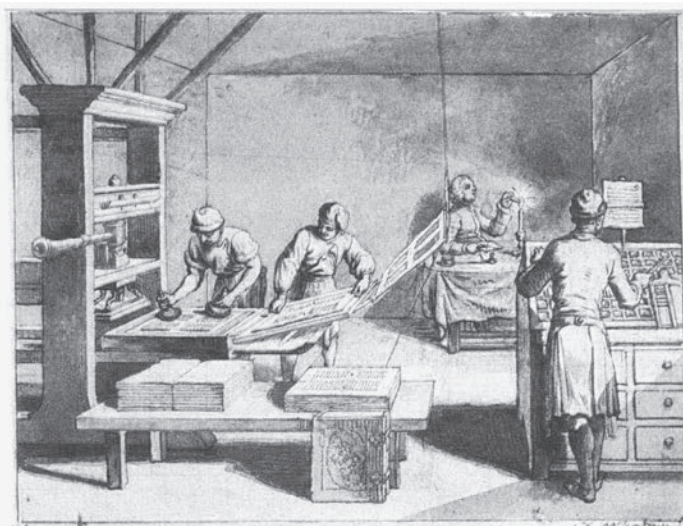
People in the United States need to understand why the Korean people feel so strongly about defending their sovereignty and independence.

The Koreans are a distinct people who were united for thousands of years by language, culture and geography, but have been divided since 1945.

Living on a peninsula with a mountainous border had protected them from land invasions and contributed to their unique development. Their civilization progressed so rapidly that “between 1011 and 1087 A.D. — approximately 375 years before German printer Johannes Gutenberg used movable metal type to print his famous 42-line Bible — the Koreans had printed the complete set of a Buddhist canon known as Tripitaka Koreana.” (International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, July 2014)

This year marks the 152nd anniversary of the first attempt by the U.S. government to “open up” Korea. Yes, this struggle goes back all the way to 1866, when the heavily armed U.S. gunboat, the General Sherman, steamed up the Daedong River. It was stopped along the way by Korean people, who told the ship to leave but also offered the sailors food and water.

Instead of waiting for permission to enter another people’s country, the warship continued on its way to the city of Pyongyang, where it fired its cannons. For four days, there was fighting between the U.S. crew and the Korean defenders. Finally, the Koreans surrounded the warship with fire boats — small vessels stuffed with flaming straw and wood — and destroyed the invading Sherman, killing the whole crew.



Korean civilization goes back thousands of years. Seen here, the world’s first metal movable type, used to print the book Jikji in 1377, was invented in Korea.

When news of their defeat reached Washington, it was a shock to the U.S. ruling class. The industrialists and traders saw themselves as a budding world power at the time, vying with the European colonialists for control of the Pacific. “Opening up” Korea would also give them a stepping stone to China, with its vast population and resources.

By 1871 — five years after the General Sherman disaster — the U.S. launched another expedition to Korea, this time with five warships and 650 men. “They let the Koreans know that their fleet would be exploring the area, and that they meant no harm,” says the U.S. Naval Dictionary. But that’s not what happened. This time they sailed up the Han River to the area that is Seoul today, ignoring Korean warnings to turn back. With superior firepower, cannons and howitzers, they attacked the Korean garrisons along the river and killed some 300 people.

But the Koreans refused to give in to the aggressors from across the ocean.

By 1898, after a war with Spain, a declining colonial ruler, the U.S. had grabbed the Philippines (as well as Cuba and Puerto Rico) to become a Pacific power. That same year it also formally annexed Hawai’i, five years after U.S. planters had overthrown Indigenous Queen Lili’uokalani there.

Struggles among the imperialist powers intensified. Who would be the first to grab up more territory and resources?

Japan beat the U.S. to the punch in Korea. In 1910 Japanese troops invaded, killed the Korean queen and began 35 years of harsh colonial repression and exploitation.

Were the U.S. imperialists unhappy about that? Of course. But not because they sympathized with the Korean people. No, they wanted Korea to be their colony. But they had other rivals to deal with.

When the first huge inter-imperialist war broke out in 1914, Japan was on the side of the British and French against Germany. So when the U.S. entered the war in 1917, it became an ally of Japan. While President Woodrow Wilson organized a Peace Conference after the war in the name of self-determination for all people, he wasn’t going to bring up the issue of Japan’s oppression of the Korean people.

World War II, like the first world war, was basically over which of the imperialist powers would dominate the oppressed, colonized nations of the world. But this time, Japan was allied with Germany. Japan’s defeat gave the U.S. the opportunity to enter Korea, supposedly as liberators. For the first time, U.S. troops got into the southern half of the country.

## Camp Humphreys

They have stayed there ever since, dividing the Korean people. Right now, the Pentagon is finalizing the building in south Korea of its largest overseas base in the entire world: Camp Humphreys. Located in Pyeongtaek, 40 miles south of Seoul, it will house 45,000 people — U.S. troops and their families — when completed in 2020.

This expanded base will occupy nearly 3,500 acres, about 5.5 square miles. That is land forcibly taken from south Korean farmers and villagers, who protested for many years.

“The installation has a battle simulation center, small arms range, communications center, and motor pools for servicing Bradley Fighting Vehicles and battle tanks, all poised and constantly ready to ‘Fight Tonight’. ... In all, more than 650 new buildings have been built on what was once rice fields and farming villages.” (The Diplomat, Nov. 6)

Tellingly, it is located on what was once a Japanese military base.

The Trump administration is doing everything it can — including threatening a nuclear war with north Korea — to keep the peninsula from reuniting. After 152 years of U.S. aggression against Korea, it’s time for people in the U.S. to say “Hands off Korea!” □

## France Class lines harden in labor conflict

By G. Dunkel

Major strikes are starting in France on April 3 to oppose the Macron government’s plans to impose austerity on the French working class, lay off 120,000 public sector workers and weaken the labor movement. But French workers are fighting back through political strikes, like the U.S. teachers’ strikes in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

Railroad workers have scheduled the first two days of the 36-day strike they plan to hold before the end of June. They intend to strike April 3-4 and then work for three days. Sanitation and sewage workers are going out on strike during the first week of April and are considering staying out until June. Air France workers are striking on April 3, 10 and 11, but haven’t decided how long they will hold these work stoppages. Some electricity workers have given notice that they intend to strike every day for the next three months.

Workers in France have a constitutional right to strike as long as they give a few days notice. Concerned that a major portion of its transportation system is not going to operate, the government is warning these union members not to interfere with strikebreakers.

SNCF, the government-owned company that runs the railroads, is promising a bonus to any manager with a train operator’s certificate who agrees to drive a train. SNCF management is also disputing the validity of the strike notice that the CGT, UNSA and CFDT unions, which represent railroad workers, have given.

A coalition of 12 left-wing parties, ranging from the Greens to the Maoist Communist Party of French Workers (PCOF), has been formed to resist “the breakup of the SNCF,” a precursor to the government’s goal of breaking up the organized public service sector in France.

The left in France is still a significant political force. In the most recent presidential election in 2017, mem-

bers of the left coalition received between 25 percent and 30 percent of the votes cast.

### ‘Together! Together! Yeah!’

At a press conference held by SUD Rail and CGT Rail at the end of March, Danielle Simonnet, of the Party of the Left, said: “One chant sums it up: When everything is privatized, we’ll be deprived of all.” (L’Obs, March 30) SUD Rail, another major union of railroad workers, plans to strike until victory or the end of June.

Clémentine Autain, representing France Unbowed, said at the same media event: “This is a trial of strength between the unions and the government. We must win it.” The press conference ended with a chant of “Together! Together! Yeah!” This slogan goes back to the victorious struggle of 1995 when the railroad workers beat back the government of Alain Juppé.

French sanitation workers, who are mainly organized by the CGT in both the private and the public sector, have a nasty job. According to Baptiste Talbot, the leader of the Federation of Public Service, “Our life expectancy is 15 years less than that of a normal worker, and we are three times more likely to die before the age of 65.” (cgt Paris, March 24)

That is why sanitation workers are demanding full retirement at age 50. They are beginning an unlimited strike April 3, but the union has already held job actions in several cities. That can be seen on French television, which shows garbage piling up in Paris and Marseilles, and reports on work stoppages in eastern and northern areas of the country.

The union movement is not only mobilizing itself but also its allies. It has beaten back government attacks in the past and is confident it can win this struggle. Organized labor forces are determined to oppose France becoming a lean, mean, modern imperialist state on the backs of the workers. □

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by Sara Flounders

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# WWP condemns Israeli massacre of protesters in Gaza

Workers World Party condemns the brutal massacre of peaceful Palestinian protesters by Israeli occupation forces in Gaza on March 30. We stand with the Great March of Return and the right of all Palestinian people to return to their stolen homeland.

We hold the U.S. government, which arms and funds the Israeli war machine, responsible for today's massacre and for 70 years of massacre against the people of Palestine.

At least 16 Palestinian civilians are confirmed dead and 1,416 injured, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. Israeli snipers targeted unarmed marchers while drones dropped tear gas from above. A young man was shot while praying. A farmer working his field was murdered with a tank shell.

These murders by the racist occupation army are as cowardly as the murders of Stephon Clark and so many more unarmed Black people by racist U.S. cops. They show how much the Israeli apartheid regime fears this united action of all Palestinian political factions and sectors of society.

Israel is part and parcel of the U.S. military-industrial complex, receiving more than \$3 billion in annual direct military aid, nearly three times as much as the next highest recipient, and billions

more by other means. Since its founding, Israel has served as both a military base and a bastion of white supremacy for U.S. imperialism in the Middle East, serving the interests of U.S. oil corporations.

The standard-issue weapon of the Israeli army is the M16, made in South Carolina and provided free to Israel by the Pentagon. This is the fully automatic version of the AR-15, the assault weapon widely condemned for its role in the Parkland school shooting and other mass shootings in the U.S. Yet neither Trump and the Republicans nor the Democratic Party opposition objects to providing these weapons to gun down Palestinian children and their families.

The U.S. president's unilateral decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem was an act of incitement aimed at escalating the genocide of the Palestinian people and futhering the theft of land by Zionist settlers, many of whom come from the U.S. Meanwhile, the people of Gaza, 70 percent of them refugees, are living through their 11th year of total blockade. Gaza is the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million people are kept under siege, denied the right to medical care, education, drinking water and electricity.

Most people in Gaza are the children and grandchildren of refugees driven off

their land a few miles away, in what are now Israeli cities and resort towns like Tel Aviv and Herzliya. Their labor built many of the luxury hotels and condos that now line the Mediterranean shore. U.S. hotel chains and developers claim to own much of the land that rightly belongs to expelled Palestinians. U.S. firms also help plunder natural gas from beneath the waters of Palestine.

On March 30, Palestinians were commemorating the 42nd anniversary of Land Day, when six Palestinian protesters were gunned down by Israeli forces in 1976, as they were protesting the Israeli government confiscation of Palestinian land. The Great March of Return will continue until May 15, the 70th anniversary of the Nakba — “the disaster” — and

the creation of the racist settler state of Israel.

As revolutionaries living in the belly of U.S. imperialism, we vow to do everything in our power to disrupt Washington's military, economic and political support of the Israeli apartheid regime. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Palestine and their just struggle to end the occupation.

End all U.S. aid to the racist state of Israel!

Glory to the martyrs of Land Day 1976 and 2018!

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!

Workers World Party  
March 31, 2018

## Israeli massacre in Gaza protested



Within a few hours of the news that Israel had attacked the Great March of Return, a crowd gathered in New York's Washington Square Park to protest this new Israeli massacre.

Speakers at the rally pointed out that Israel killed 17 and wounded 1,400 — according to the latest figures available April 1 — at “peaceful protests called by all the political groups in Gaza to demand Palestinians' Right of Return to their native villages now controlled by Israel and to protest the dire conditions in Gaza.” The protests began on Land Day March 30 and are scheduled to end on al Nakba, May 15.

Land Day commemorates the six Palestinians killed and hundreds wounded over the 1976 expropriation of hundreds of thousands of hectares of Palestinian-owned land. Al Nakba, “the catastrophe,” commemorates the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians from the lands that were to become Israel in 1948.

The chants were militant: “NYC, you will learn, that refugees will return!”; “Free, free Palestine! Long live the Intifadah!”; and “Resistance is justified, when people are occupied!”

The Facebook page for the protest at Washington Square Park lists Within our Lifetime-United for Palestine as calling the protest, which was endorsed by NYU Jewish Voice for Peace, Jews for Palestinian Right of Return, Samidoun, NY 4 Palestine, which includes American Muslims for Palestine, and the International Action Center, Al-Awda, Decolonize This Place, NYU Students for Justice in Palestine, Students for Justice in Palestine at the College of Staten Island and Labor for Palestine.

There were protests March 31, especially in Tunisia, Turkey and Lebanon. More protests over the new Israeli massacre are expected the first week of April.

— Report and photo by G. Dunkel

## Berlin Easter Peace March ‘No!’ to war with Russia



*The traditional Easter Peace March began in England in 1958. West Germans began in 1960, and their march ended ended at the enormous Bergen-Hohne military camp and testing range between Hanover and Hamburg. That was in the midst of the threat of nuclear war between the U.S.-led imperialist world and the socialist world of the Soviet Union and its allies. Workers World received this release from this year's marchers in Berlin in the midst of the current U.S.-NATO-European Union campaign demonizing and threatening Russia.*

On the Easter march in Berlin, the following statement of the organizers met with great approval:

“We, participants in the Berlin Easter March, are very concerned about the preservation of peace in Europe.

“We are appalled that governments without evidence, simply on the basis of suspicions, speculations and allegations, accuse the Russian government of poisoning Skripal, and flout every principle of the rule of law by imposing sanctions and expelling diplomats. The German government has also participated in this punitive action on the pretext of sending a ‘strong signal of unity,’ directed against Russia.

“Contrary to other claims, the Russian government has from the outset expressed its willingness to participate in the investigation of the Skripal case. However, this offer of cooperation has

been rejected by the British government to date and ignored by the German government.

“Following NATO's deployment to Russia's western border, the tension with Russia has continued to escalate. Our country has a special historical responsibility to ensure peace with Russia and throughout Europe. Let us not forget that the Nazi-German war made victims of 27 million Soviet citizens.

“We call on the Federal Government to do everything possible to prepare the way for the West to carry out a policy of détente with Russia and with rationality, reason and objectivity, resume the processes of political discussion.

“Let us put in place a ‘strong signal of unity’ for peace: Détente with Russia — in our name!”

*Translation by WW managing editor John Catalinotto.*

## TURN THE GUNS AROUND

### Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

by John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, Catalinotto's ‘Turn the Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

— Pvt Larry Holmes

*GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemen's Union 1972-74.*

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# MEMORIAL FOR MILT NEIDENBERG

## Workers pay tribute to revolutionary boldness

By Brenda Ryan  
New York

Milt Neidenberg's comrades, family and friends gathered in New York City on March 31 to celebrate his life. In moving tributes, they recounted the guidance he provided in labor and revolutionary struggles over the past 60 years and the creative, bold tactics he devised to fight the evils of capitalism and protect workers.

Milt, a founding member of Workers World Party, who died on Feb. 4 at the age of 96, was a steelworker in Buffalo, N.Y., and later a unionized worker in New York City. His experiences and application of Marxism in the class struggle enabled him to develop winning strategies. As comrades said, he was their "secret weapon."

Tony Murphy recalled that Milt started every phone conversation with "What's cooking?" "We marveled at his ability to break things down, to tell you what was underneath the phenomena you were seeing and dealing with," Murphy said. "It wasn't magic. It was Marxism. Marxism is knowing our society is built around the exploitation of labor and all these institutions are designed to protect that."

First Secretary of Workers World Party Larry Holmes said Milt was a working-class Marxist intellectual. Like Party founders Sam Marcy and Vince Copeland, Milt acted as a working-class lawyer, said Holmes. "They may not have graduated from Harvard, but they graduated from the steel mills."

Party members and friends shared accounts of union struggles in which Milt played a role, from the 1968 racist teachers' strike against Black community control in Ocean Hill-Brownsville in Brooklyn to the Harvard University Dining Service workers' strike in 2016.

Vondora Jordan spoke about Milt's support of the Workfairness campaign of the mid-1990s. A group of workfare workers and supporters, backed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37, fought to unionize recipients of public assistance who had been forced into what had been union jobs. Workfairness activists also accompanied public assistance recipients to administrative hearings to advocate on their behalf when the city attempted to harass them or push them off the rolls.

Milt fought for the rights of all working-class and poor people to earn union wages, Jordan said. "I wasn't that worried because Milt was right there. I loved him dearly."

Mary Kaessinger worked with Milt in the Center for United Labor Action, which WWP initiated in 1971 to further the class struggle. She did a "mic check" shout-out: "Comrade Milt, leader, mentor and friend. Comrade Milt, Presente!"

Dave Sole, a leader of the Detroit branch, recalled Milt's help when the AP Parts Plant was on strike in 1984. "Milt found an article in the Wall Street Jour-



Milt Neidenberg

nal exposing that AP Parts sold almost all its products to General Motors, and GM was demanding that AP Parts and other suppliers lower wages and benefits." Dave brought this information to the United Auto Worker Local president, who then took hundreds of AP workers right to the doors of the GM building, where they picketed during the opening day of UAW-GM contract talks. "Milt helped us see a tactic that transformed their struggle, and they eventually won," Sole said.

Worker organizer Bryan noted that Milt's lessons were incorporated into the recently victorious West Virginia teachers' strike, particularly the lesson that legislation follows the struggle in the streets. (There is not enough space here to share all the wonderful talks, which can be accessed at workers.org.)

### School bus drivers: 'His spirit lives on'

Milt is especially admired by the members of United Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers Union. He was their mentor for more than 44 years, guiding them through strikes, injunctions and the historic two-year battle against the unfair and illegal practices of Veolia Transportation Inc./Transdev.

Party Secretariat member Fred Goldstein described Milt's ability to gain the confidence of the bus drivers, who are mainly Haitian. "He looks like he came out of the 1930s, and he walks right in and wins over the workers by his revolutionary optimism and his sagacity in the labor union struggle," said Goldstein.

Nineteen members of Local 8751's Team Solidarity came to the memorial to honor Milt and express gratitude for his crucial support. "His advice was flawless," Local 8751 President Andre Francois said. "His spirit lives on, his teaching stays with us."

Stevan Kirschbaum, founding member and vice president of Local 8751, noted Milt's philosophy that "Marxism is as Marxism does" and pledged to pick up Milt's picket sign and fight to liberate the workers and oppressed from this rotten, deadly capitalism system. "Milt Neidenberg. Live like him, dare to struggle, dare to win!" Kirschbaum declared.

Most recently, Milt conceived of and initiated the formation of the Labor Fraction in the Party following the bus drivers' victory



over Veolia/Transdev. Martha Grevatt read a statement from the fraction:

"Milt's contributions to the development of the fraction as a revolutionary training

ground included important theoretical insights into organizing beyond formal union structures. This included his thinking and support for immigrant worker centers, day laborer networks, Black workers' centers dealing with jobs for people who had been incarcerated, cooperative economic endeavors as that in Jackson, Miss., prisoner strikes, sex workers' collectives, freelance writer and tech worker associations, small vendor cooperatives, workers' defense guards, Fight for 15 groups and more."

Others spoke of the impact Milt had on their lives. Bob McCubbin was a college student when he met Milt's life partner, Rosemary Neidenberg, when they were co-workers in Buffalo. Rosemary invited him to dinner, where he met Milt. They took him to political events, including a picket against a car dealership in Buffalo that refused to hire Black workers. "I had finally walked the walk on racism where previously I'd only talked the talk," McCubbin said.

Deirdre Griswold, a Party founder, longtime editor of Workers World newspaper and member of the Secretariat, said she was 14 when Milt came to Buffalo and got three pals from Brooklyn to join him. She said it was a pretty dreary place then as the Korean war was going on, McCarthyism was raging and many Reds were losing their jobs. "Milt and his buddies lifted everyone's spirits. They were comrades in the truest sense, encouraging, not critical or competitive."

She continued: "Their Jewish culture was proletarian. It was rooted in surviving oppression through solidarity and kindness and humor. It was just the opposite of reactionary, bourgeois Zionist culture which uses the Nazi oppression of Jews as an excuse to oppress Palestinian people and steal their land."

John Catalinotto, a managing editor of WW, said Milt had set the bar high for older comrades who hoped to one day be able to retire. He quoted a poem

German communist Bertolt Brecht wrote about revolutionaries with Lenin in mind: "Those who are stronger fight on for an hour. Those who are still stronger might fight on for many years. The strongest fight their whole lives. They are the indispensable ones." With a break in his voice, Catalinotto said, "Milt was indispensable."

Young members of the party read statements of tribute to Milt sent from branches in Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland, Ore., Rochester, N.Y., the San Francisco Bay Area, Texas, Tucson, Ariz., and West Virginia. A young comrade in Philadelphia sent a video message in which he encouraged people to listen to Milt's series of classes on labor history on YouTube.

Highlights of the memorial were the musical performances. Pam Parker moved the audience singing "Mother's Day" and "Bound for Freedom." The Team Solidarity Singers sang several union songs, including "Solidarity Forever" and "Joe Hill," to joyous accompaniment from the audience.

The most moving part of the program was a video clip from a 2009 celebration of Milt and Rosemary on their 50th anniversary in Workers World Party. In this Milt says love and passion are what kept him and Rosie in the struggle. But he adds that there has to be hate as well as love — hate on a class basis "to select the best possible way to hit back, to be the most cunning, creative, crafty" against vulture capitalists that rob the workers daily.

Milt advised his comrades to learn from setbacks and advances and to go back to the classics, Marx, Lenin and Engels, because they "give us a sense of direction and historical potential for what we can accomplish on the way to a revolutionary socialist future." □

WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN, JOE PIETTE AND STEVE KIRSCHBAUM



Rosemary Neidenberg



# Trump concibe golpe derechista

Por Fred Goldstein

24 de marzo - Con el nombramiento del militarista belicista y racista John Bolton para el cargo de Asesor de Seguridad Nacional, Donald Trump virtualmente transformó su régimen en un bastión de ultraderechistas.

Con esta transformación, Trump ha desmantelado la floja coalición original que incluía figuras del establecimiento en la Casa Blanca y el Gabinete. Esta coalición había sido implantada por la clase dirigente para equilibrar a los ultraderechistas que rodeaban a Trump y al mismo Trump.

La transformación ha aumentado drásticamente los peligros de una guerra y las dificultades económicas para las masas. Las/os líderes de los trabajadores y los oprimidos ahora deben tomar este desarrollo en serio y prepararse para la resistencia.

Trump y sus ultraderechistas escogidos a dedo son los que básicamente están en control ahora. Con el nombramiento de Bolton como asesor de seguridad nacional, prácticamente todos los puestos claves en la Casa Blanca y el Gabinete están ahora encabezados por la extrema derecha y los lacayos de Trump.

La única excepción es el Secretario de Defensa, general James Mattis. Conocido como “perro rabioso” Mattis, este criminal de guerra de Irak y carnicero de Faluya, sin embargo, ha sonado la alarma sobre una guerra nuclear o un primer ataque contra la República Popular Democrática de Corea. Mattis también ha abogado por la permanencia de EUA en el pacto nuclear de Irán y ha diferido con las declaraciones de Trump sobre la conveniencia de las torturas.

Los puestos claves de política exterior en cualquier administración son la secretaría de estado, de defensa, la asesoría de seguridad nacional y la jefatura del gabinete presidencial. La jefatura del Consejo Económico Nacional y la asesoría comercial también son puestos clave.

Trump ha usado sus poderes de despido y nombramiento para asegurarse de que cada una de estas posiciones esté ahora ocupada por un ultraderechista que sea compatible con su programa beligerante, racista y militarista.

## Halcón beligerante reemplazado por súper halcón

Trump expulsó al general H.R. McMaster como asesor de seguridad nacional a pesar de que era un halcón de la guerra. Las razones son en parte políticas, en parte personales y en parte fraccionales. Pero los detalles no son tan importantes como el hecho de que ha reemplazado a McMaster con un súper halcón, John Bolton.

Bolton escribió el 28 de febrero una pieza importante para el Wall Street Journal argumentando falsamente que existe una base legal para hacer una guerra preventiva contra la RPDC. Él está a favor del cambio de régimen y de la eliminación militar del gobierno de la RPDC, diciendo que el sur, que ha estado ocupado por tropas de EUA desde 1945, debería tomar el control del norte.

No sólo Bolton quiere sacar a Estados Unidos del acuerdo nuclear con Irán, sino que también quiere un cambio de régimen en Teherán, y usaría bombardeos para tratar de lograrlo.

Fue un arquitecto de la guerra en Irak y aún la defiende. Fue parte de un influyente grupo de neoconservadores en la administración de George W. Bush, junto con Paul Wolfowitz, quien echó leña al fuego político belicista de Bush, Donald Rumsfeld y Dick Cheney para comenzar la guerra en Irak.

Bolton era tan derechista que no pudo obtener la confirmación del Senado para ser el embajador permanente de EUA ante las Naciones Unidas. Fue embajador en funciones durante un año en el llamado ‘nombramiento de receso’ de Bush. Pero tuvo que renunciar cuando su designación de receso terminó porque no pudo ser confirmado.

Este embajador en la ONU una vez dijo: “Si eliminan los 10 pisos superiores de la ONU, no haría ninguna diferencia”.

## La purga comenzó con Priebus y terminó con McMaster

El lado “moderado” de la coalición inicial de Trump consistía de figuras del establecimiento como el Jefe de Gabinete Reince Priebus, ex jefe del Comité Nacional Republicano; El Secretario de Estado Rex Tillerson, ex jefe de ExxonMobil; Gary Cohn, número dos en Goldman Sachs, que era jefe del Consejo Económico Nacional; el Asesor de Seguridad Nacional Gen. H.R. McMaster; y el Secretario de Defensa, Gen. James Mattis. Ahora se han ido todos, con la excepción de Mattis.

Priebus fue expulsado temprano para ser reemplazado por el general John Kelly, un racista pro Confederación [N de T: estados esclavistas del sur de EUA], halcón anti inmigración y ex jefe de Seguridad Nacional y del Comando Sur de los EUA.

Más recientemente, Tillerson fue removido y será reemplazado por el halcón de guerra contra Irán e islamofóbico Mike Pompeo, quien fue traído de la jefatura de la CIA y está estrechamente relacionado con los hermanos Koch. Trump y Pompeo han hablado todos los días durante meses.

El próximo en ser destituido fue Cohn, quien había trabajado con Trump para impulsar los gigantescos recortes de impuestos corporativos. Pero Wall Street se ha opuesto a las políticas de guerra comercial de Trump de imponer aranceles, especialmente a las importaciones desde China. Sin embargo, Trump impuso los aranceles de todos modos, aliándose a Peter Navarro, su gurú del comercio y al multimillonario negociante embaucador secretario del comercio, Wilbur Ross. Cohn fue expulsado, reemplazado como jefe del Consejo Económico Nacional por el economista marginal de Reagan, Larry Kudlow. Este vicioso economista de derechas, enemigo de la clase trabajadora, aboga por recortes tributarios corporativos aún mayores como la panacea para la economía.

## ‘Moderados’ son también explotadores y guerreristas

Sería políticamente insensato considerar al “grupo depuesto” de banqueros, generales y explotadores corporativos como “moderados”. Ciertamente, con respecto a las/os trabajadoras y oprimidos dentro y fuera del país, no fueron nada moderados.

McMaster y Mattis fueron comandantes en Irak y Afganistán, así como planificadores y criminales de guerra. Tillerson

era el jefe de un imperio petrolero global que saqueaba los recursos de países en todos los continentes, especialmente en Medio Oriente.

Cohn fue ejecutivo en Goldman Sachs, la empresa con un alto grado de responsabilidad por el colapso económico de 2007-09. Entre otras cosas, había agrupado y vendido préstamos malos de vivienda, apostando luego a que los préstamos fracasarían. Esos préstamos fallidos resultaron en ejecuciones hipotecarias y desalojos para cientos de miles de propietarias/os e inquilinas/os.

Priebus, Tillerson, Cohn, McMaster y Mattis habían sido empujados a la administración de Trump desde el principio para asegurar que el amplio establecimiento de la clase dominante tuviese influencia en las políticas. Los estrategias del imperialismo no querían que Trump destruyera su aparato político, económico y comercial mundial. Ellos han nutrido este aparato, que incluye a la ONU, el Fondo Monetario Internacional, el Banco Mundial, la OTAN, la Organización de Estados Americanos, la Organización Mundial del Comercio, el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte y varios acuerdos comerciales imperialistas, prácticas migratorias, etc. Todo esto ha sido cuidadosamente construido y mantenido minuciosamente durante décadas con el fin de fomentar los intereses imperialistas estadounidenses.

La retórica de campaña de Trump se dirigió contra todas estas instituciones y políticas. La clase dominante temía especialmente los ataques de Trump contra China, el TLCAN, la OTAN y la política de inmigración, entre otras cosas. Los patronos y los banqueros sentían que necesitaban un grupo en la administración que les diera voz. Necesitaban una forma de contrarrestar a Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller, Peter Navarro, etc., así como al propio Trump.

Trump ahora ha silenciado las voces del establecimiento dentro de su administración, a excepción de Mattis. Nadie sabe dónde caerán las fuerzas dominantes en el Pentágono sobre la cuestión de atacar a la RPDC o Irán. Pero todas las organizaciones de masas deben prepararse para resistir una escalada en el impulso bélico.

## Aranceles, guerras comerciales y la clase trabajadora

La clase dominante siempre lleva a cabo sus guerras a expensas de la clase trabajadora y las/os oprimidos. Esto se aplica tanto a las guerras militares como a las comerciales.

Este hecho es invisible a la burocracia sindical. El presidente de la AFL-CIO, Richard Trumka, y el vicepresidente, Leo Gerard, jefe del Sindicato de Trabajadores del Acero, elogiaron los aranceles sobre el acero y el aluminio como una victoria para crear empleos. Estos lugartenientes sindicales de la clase dominante están tratando de proteger sus cómodas posiciones y sus enormes salarios.

Mientras tanto, los aranceles costarán empleos. Y no solo los trabajos en EUA, sino también los trabajos de las/os trabajadoras chinos, japoneses y coreanos debido a la contracción de la producción de acero y aluminio.

China ya ha impuesto aranceles limitados a los bienes estadounidenses. Los pro-

PONER FIN de GUERRAS DE EL EE.UU AQUI Y EL RESTO DE MUNDO

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ABRIL 15  
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MARCHA A LA TORRE DE TRUMP  
¡ESTAMOS UNIDOS!

► Oponerse a todo los guerras de el EE.UU, amenazas nucleares, los sanciones, derrocar estados y bases militares  
► Financiar los necessitas de humanos, No guerras  
► Solidaridad con el gente oprimido aqui y fuera de pais

SpringAction2018.org  
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UNACpeace.org IACenter.org

ductores de esos bienes comenzarán a des- pedir si los patronos no son detenidos. El periódico Workers World- Mundo Ob- ro del 15 de marzo informó que cuando, durante 13 meses en 2002, el presidente George Bush impuso aranceles, 200.000 trabajadoras/es perdieron sus empleos.

En lugar de considerar los aranceles como una forma de conseguir empleos, los verdaderos líderes sindicales lucharían por todas/os los trabajadores siderúrgicos, mineros del carbón y otras/os trabajadores industriales cuyos empleos han sido de- struidos por la tecnología de los patronos y la deslocalización. Harían a los capital- istas responsables de los despidos y el de- sempleo y exigirían un programa de em- pleo para las/os trabajadores desplazados.

Los burócratas egocéntricos y cerrados de mente están elogiando los aranceles de la misma manera que lucharon por el oleoducto Dakota Access, que pisoteó los derechos de los pueblos indígenas y fue un golpe para el medio ambiente. Una verdadera mentalidad de clase trabajado- ra pone los intereses de toda la clase por encima de los estrechos intereses de una pequeña sección de trabajadores mejor pagados.

Vale la pena señalar que Trumka y com- pañía hicieron poco para apoyar a las/os maestros de Virginia Occidental, quienes realizaron un heroico ataque en un esta- do de “derecho al trabajo” (itrabajar por menos!).

## El pueblo se mueve en dirección opuesta a Trump

Trump, la clase dominante y los jefes sindicales se están moviendo en dirección de la reacción política. Pero el pueblo se está moviendo en la dirección opuesta.

Más de un millón de estudiantes sa- lieron por miles en las manifestaciones contra la Asociación Nacional del Rifle el 24 de marzo. Sus consignas eran mo- deradas, pero el espíritu de determinación para rechazar a los cabilderos de las ar- mas y exponer a los políticos que toman su dinero sangriento fue algo nuevo.

Más de un millón de mujeres salieron para la Marcha de las Mujeres en enero pasado para rechazar a la odiosa misogin- ia de Trump.

El movimiento Las Vidas Negras Im- portan sentó las bases para la concien- tización de toda la sociedad sobre los ases- inatos racistas policiales.

El movimiento de solidaridad con las/ os Soñadores de la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia [DACA por sus siglas en inglés] ha creado conciencia so- bre las inhumanas deportaciones y la de- strucción de familias inmigrantes.

La corriente reaccionaria que emana de la cúpula de la sociedad de la clase dom- inante está destinada a chocar eventual- mente con la corriente progresista prove- niente de los niveles más bajos: los sectores más pobres de las/os trabajadoras, las co- munidades oprimidas, las/os inmigrantes, las mujeres, la comunidad LGBTQ y las/ os estudiantes. La oleada de la reacción no puede durar para siempre. □